

Paul Sachelari, CSBN 230083  
Law Offices of Francesco Benavides  
1990 N. California Blvd. 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596  
Tel: (925) 222-7071  
Email: paul@sachelarilaw.com

Attorney for Plaintiff

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

BRANDI ARWOOD, o.b.o., D.D.J.,

Plaintiff,

v.

COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY,

Defendant.

Case No. 1:25-cv-00736-SKO

STIPULATION AND UNOPPOSED MOTION  
FOR THE AWARD AND PAYMENT OF  
ATTORNEY FEES AND EXPENSES  
PURSUANT TO THE EQUAL ACCESS TO  
JUSTICE ACT; ORDER

(Doc. 26)

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED by and between the parties through their undersigned counsel, subject to the approval of the Court, that Plaintiff be awarded attorney fees and expenses in the amount of \$9,800.00, under the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA), 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d), and no costs under 28 U.S.C. § 1920. This amount represents compensation for all legal services rendered on behalf of Plaintiff by counsel in connection with this civil action, in accordance with 28 U.S.C. §§ 2412(d), 1920.

After the Court issues an order for EAJA fees to Plaintiff, the government will consider the matter of Plaintiff's assignment of EAJA fees to counsel. Pursuant to *Astrue v. Ratliff*, 560 U.S. 586, 598, 130 S.Ct. 2521, 177 L.Ed.2d 91 (2010), the ability to honor the assignment will depend on whether the fees are subject to any offset allowed under the United States Department of the Treasury's Offset Program. After the order for EAJA fees is entered, the government will determine whether they are subject to any offset.

1 Fees shall be made payable to Plaintiff, but if the Department of the Treasury determines that  
2 Plaintiff does not owe a federal debt, then the government shall cause the payment of fees, expenses  
3 and costs to be made directly to Plaintiff's counsel, Francesco Benavides, pursuant to the assignment  
4 executed by Plaintiff.

5 Payments may be made by electronic funds transfer (EFT) or by check.

6 This stipulation constitutes a compromise settlement of Plaintiff's request for EAJA attorney  
7 fees and does not constitute an admission of liability on the part of Defendant under the EAJA or  
8 otherwise. Payment of the agreed amount shall constitute a complete release from, and bar to, any  
9 and all claims that Plaintiff and/or Francesco Benavides, including the Law Offices of Francesco  
10 Benavides, may have relating to EAJA attorney fees in connection with this action.

11 This award is without prejudice to the rights of Francesco Benavides to seek Social Security  
12 Act attorney fees under 42 U.S.C. § 406(b), subject to the savings clause provisions of the EAJA.

13 Respectfully submitted,

14 Dated: December 22, 2025

Law Offices of Francesco Benavides

15 By: /s/ Paul Sachelari  
16 PAUL SACHELARI  
17 Attorney for Plaintiff

18 Dated: December 22, 2025

ERIC GRANT  
United States Attorney

20 By: Marcelo Illarmo\*  
21 MARCELO ILLARMO  
22 Special Assistant U.S. Attorney  
23 Attorneys for Defendant  
24 (\*Permission to use electronic signature  
25 obtained via email on December 22, 2025).  
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**ORDER**

Based upon the parties' Stipulation and Unopposed Motion for the Award and Payment of Equal Access to Justice Act Fees and Expenses (the "Stipulation") (Doc. 26),

**IT IS ORDERED** that fees and expenses in the amount of \$9,800.00 as authorized by 28 U.S.C. § 2412, and no costs under 28 U.S.C. § 1920, be awarded subject to the terms of the Stipulation.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: **December 23, 2025**

*/s/ Sheila K. Oberto*  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE